HISTORY

of

MIZPAH-RUSH CHARGE

Mizpah Church
Rush Church
In 1838 five early settlers on becoming acquainted found that they were Methodist and at once began planning for a church building. These five families were: Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Lester, Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Davenport, Mr. & Mrs. Houston Aycock, Mr. & Mrs. John Rush and Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Watters.

These families, after establishing their homes were inspired to build a Methodist Church in which they, their children and all the people of the community, white and colored could go and worship God.

These people secured an acre of land for the Church and cemetery from Col. Isaac Fetten and built thereon a log church, known as Rush Chapel. Here the early settlers worshiped until about 1845. The log church was replaced by a frame structure.

In 1861 an addition was made to the church building. The pulpit in those days was at the front of the church and the congregation sat facing the doors. The ladies sat on one side of the church and the men on the other side. There was also a section reserved for the colored people to sit in for worship.

Some years later the colored Methodist built their church about a half mile away (now Dodd's Service Station) which was also known as Rush Chapel. It later consolidated with Mt. Sinai on Calhoun Road.
In 1910 during the ministry and leadership of Reverend O. L. Evans a great need for a larger and more adequate place of worship was felt. Some of the old residents who helped or contributed to the work are as follows: Mrs. J. E. Reeves, Mrs. J. T. Watters, J. T. Watters, T. E. Perry, J. P. Rush, W. A. Rush, Mrs. A. E. Watters, Mrs. John Ward & Sons, A. S. Burney. Men from the community helped in building the church giving both of their time and money.

It is not definitely known who was the first pastor of Rush Chapel, though the church register shows that William Watters was received into the church on profession of faith in 1867 by Reverend T. M. Pledger, pastor. It has been told the historian that Jackson Watters brother of the above mentioned William Watters was the first member to be received into the church by profession. It is thought that like Mispah, supply preachers or circuit Riders preached at various times during the year.

Among some of the early records of pastors and officials the following were recorded in 1881: Reverend R. K. Johnston, pastor; Wm. Hickey, local Elder; Wm. Watters, T. S. Burney, H. W. Sharp, Wm. Nixon, Stewards; C. W. Rush, J. M. Julton, A. H. Treadaway, Class leaders. In 1888: Reverend J. E. Rosser, pastor; Reverend William H. Hickey, local preacher; Thomas S. Burney, George Green, H. W. Sharp, J. T. Watters, stewards; T. S. Burney, H. W. Sharp Class leaders, John P. Rush, S.S. Superintendent.
The first Sunday School was organized over a hundred years ago. The earliest Superintendents were: H. W. Sharp, T. S. Burney, J. P. Rush, T. E. Perry, E. F. Padgett, D. E. Pennington, Mrs. Hiram Stephens. The present Supt. is Ralph Perry. The present enrollment is 75. The amount paid by the Sunday School for all causes was $274.30 for the past Conference year. The church membership registers 130 members. During the past conference year Rush Chapel raised $1,528.65 ending June 30, 1950.

The first missionary Society was organized at Rush Chapel in 1910, Mrs. L. B. Stephens as president. Others serving as president were: Mrs. J. P. Rush, Mrs. J. T. Watters, Mrs. S. L. Rush, Mrs. M. M. Adams, Mrs. Hiram Stephens, and Mrs. Grover Brinson is now the president. The organization is now THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE. We celebrated our tenth anniversary as the W.S.C.S. this fall by each Society visiting another. The W.S.C.S. now has 30 members and they paid $95.85 for all causes during the past conference year.

There are other organizations carried out in our church. The Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized in the year 1918 under the leadership of Miss Ruth Perry, Mrs. Mattie Hunt and Mrs. O. O. Dodd. Jack Gains is now serving as the president of this fine Christian group of young people.
The Men's Club was organized in the year 1950 by the present pastor, Reverend Charles Winson Buice. The men have a great goal in mind that of building an educational building to the grandeur of the historical Church Building of God.

Within the better than a century of existence, Rush Chapel has had a number of helpful, devoted inspired men of God as pastors. For many years Reverend Wm. Hickey was a most devoted and active local preacher with us.

For many years Reverend W. W. Brinsfield was a member of the North Ga. Conference and he was a product of the Chapel. Brother Henry Sharpe was not a preacher, but his long life of service and consecration made a lasting influence for good rarely surpassed by the work of any preacher. In 1905, Samuel L. Latimer was recommended for licence to exhort.

In writing the history of Rush Chapel, it would not be complete without paying tribute to one of our oldest, most devoted and faithful members, Mr. John P. Rush, to whom we are indebted for keeping all our church records for many, many years and in giving the origin and description of the first church at Rush Chapel. Also to North Rome and Mizpah for data from their records.

Dec. 19, 1950

Mrs. Miriam W. Rush, Historian